

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 4 and 5. The change to Fig. 4 adds reference numeral 424, and the change to Fig. 5 corrects a grammatical error in box 55 by changing "compare" to --compares --, to ensure compliance with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5).

Attachments: **Replacement Sheets** for Figs. 4 and 5

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes to Figs. 4 and 5

REMARKS

By the present invention, Claims 2, 3 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1-23 remain pending in the present application. Claims 6-23 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5 are currently being considered, and Claim 1 is the sole independent claim currently being considered.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the specification, abstract, claims, and drawings are fully supported by the original disclosure, and introduce no new matter therewith. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Objection to Drawing

1. The drawings are objected to because Fig. 4 does not show reference numeral 424 as described on line 22 of page 8. Applicants have submitted replacement sheets for Figs. 4 and 5 and annotated sheets showing the changes made for Figs. 4 and 5. Reference numeral 424 has been added to Fig. 4, and the word "compare" has been changed to --compares-- in box 55 of Fig. 5. Applicants respectfully submit that these replacement and annotated sheets overcome this objection and request withdrawal of this objection.

Objections to the Abstract and Specification

2. The abstract and specification of the disclosure are objected to because of informalities. In particular, the Office notes that the abstract does not fall within the range of 50

to 150 words and does not sufficiently describe the disclosure. The Office also notes informalities on pages 4 and 6 of the disclosure. Applicants have amended informalities in the disclosure. However, Applicants have not amended lines 1-5 of page 4 of the disclosure, as requested by the Office, because the specification does not define a computer readable medium as acoustic or other form of propagated signals, as the Office asserts. As indicated from page 3, line 21 to page 4, line 2 of the disclosure, embodiments of the invention may also be implemented as instructions stored on a machine-readable medium, where "a machine-readable medium may include any mechanism for storing or transmitting information in a form readable by a machine." The subsequent disclosure merely describes some examples of what may be included with a machine-readable medium. Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is overcome and request withdrawal of this objection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

3. Claims 2, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the Office Action notes that "said direct memory controller" in line 2 of Claims 2, 3 and 5 has insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants have amended Claims 2, 3 and 5 to change "said direct memory controller" to --a direct memory controller--.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 2, 3 and 5 meet the specific requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of Claims 2, 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection based on Johnson

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,070). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent Claim 1 recites an apparatus including a direct memory access register adapted to hold a descriptor. The register includes a command register, a source address register, a target address register, and a descriptor address register. The command register has a compare enable bit and a branch enable bit.

The Office states that Johnson teaches the claimed command register with a branch enable bit in col. 7, lines 54-67. Applicants respectfully submit that Johnson, at a minimum, fails to teach the claimed command register with a branch enable bit. In rejecting Claim 1, the Office does not specify what aspect of Johnson teaches a command register with a branch enable bit and, instead, broadly points to col. 7, lines 54-67. From the best understanding of the intention of the Office, the Office appears to be aligning the recited branch enable bit with the [L] register 332 of Johnson (see Johnson, col. 64-69). Although the [L] register 332 holds two bits from the descriptor, the two bits held in the [L] register 332 are non for enabling a branch (see Johnson, col. 7, lines 64-69; col. 8, lines 29-34). Instead, the two bits held in the [L] register 332 are used to continually perform a comparison in the ALU 342 to obtain the value NRL whenever the values in the [L] register 332 are reloaded (see Johnson, col. 8, lines 39-48 and 55-64).

It is well known that for a reference to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) there must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure, as viewed by

a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention. See *Scripps Clinic & Research Foundation v. Genentech Inc.*, 18 USPQ 2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991). The application of Johnson by the Office fails to meet this criteria, and Claim 1 is allowable over Johnson.

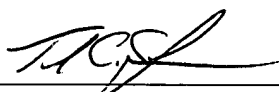
Claims 2-5 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson.

5. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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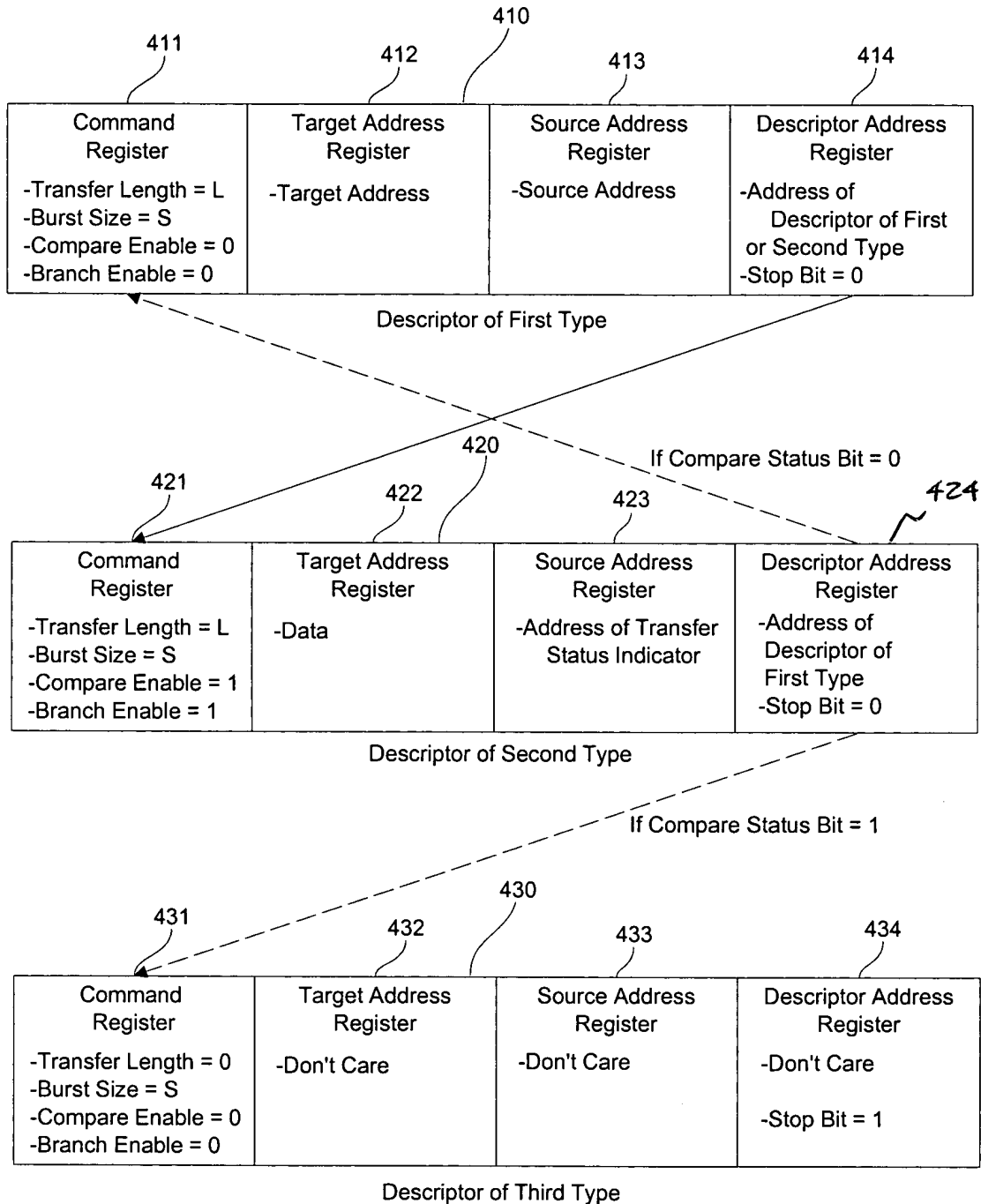


FIG. 4

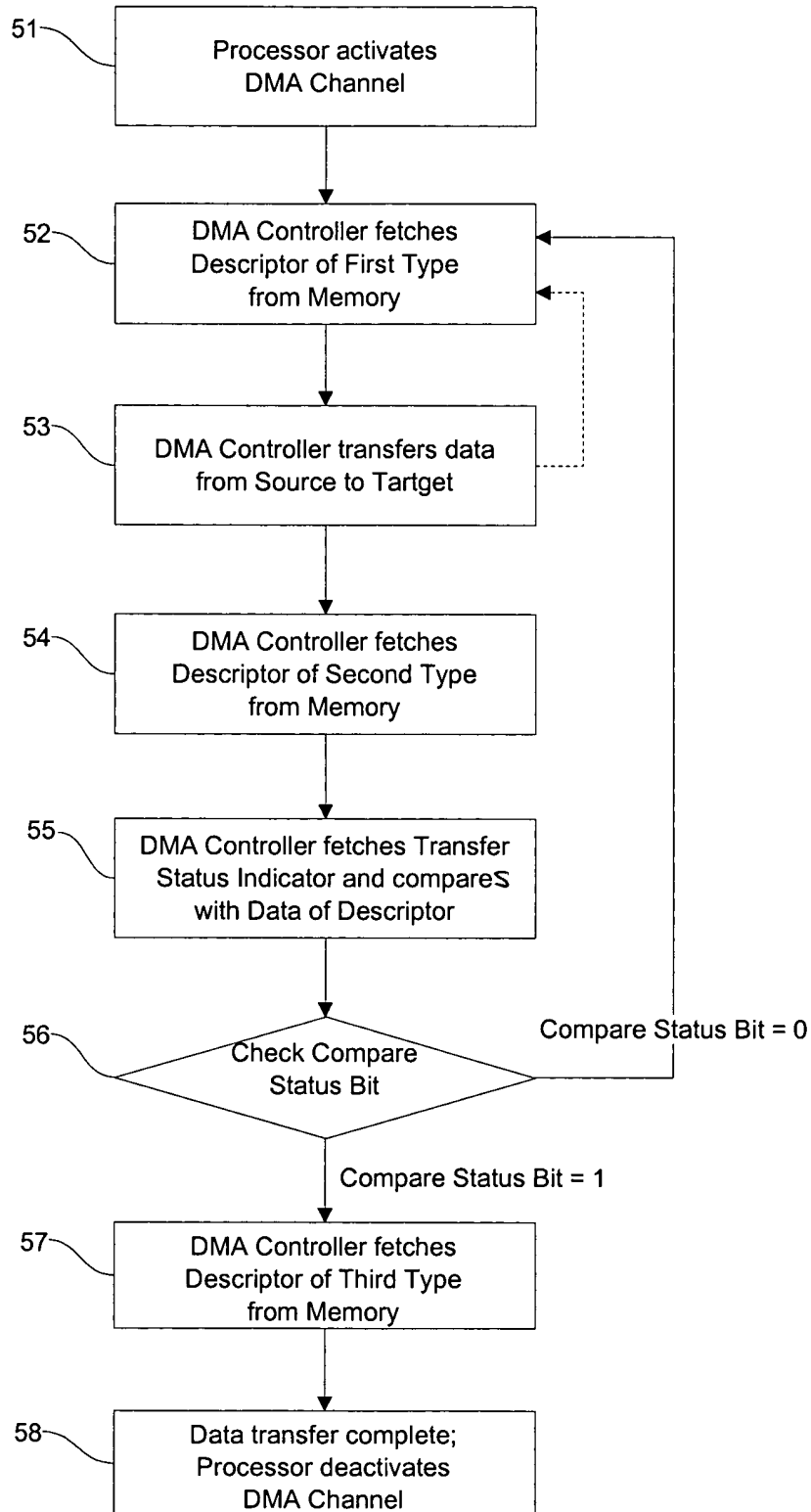


FIG. 5